

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

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| <b>TUSLA Identifier:</b> | TU2015WH005 |
|--------------------------|-------------|

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| <b>Name of Service:</b> | Dunaree Childcare & Pre-school LTD |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|

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| <b>Address of Service:</b> | 1 Mayfield, Guildford, Tyrellspass, Co. Westmeath |
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| <b>Eircode:</b> | N91 ND77 |
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| <b>Name of Registered Provider:</b> | Mairead Hyland |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|

|                      |                                |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Service type:</b> | Full Day, Part Time, Sessional |
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| <b>Date of Inspection: Day 1</b> | 13/05/2025 |
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| <b>Date 2 of Inspection:</b> | 20/05/2025 |
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|   |    |     |    |    |
|---|----|-----|----|----|
| <b>No of pre-school children: Day 1</b> | AM | 20  | PM | 17 |
| <b>No of pre-school children: Day 2</b> |    | n/a |    | 12 |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b> | Early Years Inspectorate, SAP Office, St Loman's Campus,<br>Springfield,<br>Mullingar,<br>Co Westmeath, N91 N4XC. |
| <b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>                | T. Duignan  |
| <b>Title:</b>                                   | Early Years Inspector   |

### Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(J) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

|                                 |                 |
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| <b>Conditions if applicable</b> | Not applicable. |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|

### Description of service

Dunaree Childcare and Pre-School Ltd. was established in 2009 and is located in Tyrellspass, Co. Westmeath. It is registered as providing a full day care, part time and sessional service. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. The age range of children currently enrolled in the service is 0 to 6 years of age. The service operates between the hours of 07:00am – 18:00 hours on a Monday to Friday basis. The Early Years' Service is located in a single storey adapted building and provides a baby/ toddler room, a pre-school room, a sleep room and a kitchen. Outdoor play areas are attached to front and back of the premises.

### Staffing

Five adults and one student were present during the inspection on day 1. All adults were working directly with the children.

The registered provider was present for a short period during day 1 of the inspection and present on day 2 for the feedback meeting and review of digital images taken during day 1 of the inspection .

### Methodology

Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate is the independent statutory regulator of early years services in Ireland. The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 define the duty of a registered provider to ensure the safety and well-being of children and to comply with these regulations. This Act also gives Tusla the authority to assess compliance with the regulations. The purpose of regulation in relation to early years services is to ensure that the care, safety, and well-being of children attending such services is upheld. Inspections of early years services are planned based on the following:

- Previous inspection history
- Any information received in relation to the service

The findings on inspection are based on:

- Information obtained through examination of documentation
- Direct observation
- Discussion with relevant staff

This inspection was unannounced and focused on the area of governance, health, welfare and development of child, safety and premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under

- Regulation 9 (2)(a)(b)(c)(d), (4) - Management and recruitment.
- Regulation 11(1),(2),(8)(a) – Staffing Levels.
- Regulation 20(1)(a), (3)(a) – Facilities for Rest and Play.
- Regulation 23 – Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child.
- Regulation 25 (1), (2)(a)(b) – First aid.
- Regulation 26 – Fire Safety.
- Regulation 28 – Insurance.
- Regulation 29(d) – Premises.

however, on inspection an additional non-compliance was identified under:

- Regulation 16(1)(k) – Record in relation to pre-school service.

These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

Inspection findings are documented in the inspection report which is first issued in draft format to the service with an opportunity to respond to any findings. Where statutory requirements are identified as not being met, the registered provider must demonstrate how they have rectified the non-compliance and will prevent any non-compliance from re occurring. The Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan (CAPA) will be used to inform decisions about compliance with regulatory requirements. Where the registered provider fails to meet the statutory requirements an escalation process may be commenced.

The inspectorate reserves the right to edit responses received for reasons including clarity, completeness and compliance with administrative and legal processes.

The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.

### Additional Information

1. The feedback meeting and review of digital images taken during day 1 of the inspection was completed on 20 May 2025 as the registered provider was not available on day 1 of the inspection.

### Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, staff and children who were present during the inspection.

### Part III – Management and Staff

#### Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that-

- (a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required,
- (b) at all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the designated person in charge or the named person referred to in subparagraph (a) is on the premises, and
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that each employee, unpaid worker and contractor is suitable and competent taking into consideration the nature of the needs of children, including by-

- (a) consideration of references from the person's past employers, if any, and in particular the most recent employer, if any,
- (b) consideration of references from reputable sources in the case of a person who has no past employers,
- (c) consideration of the vetting disclosure received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 in respect of the person, and
- (d) ensuring, insofar as is practicable, that where a person has lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months, he or she provides police vetting from the police authorities in that state.

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that, without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (2) and subject to paragraphs (5) and (6), each employee working directly with children attending the service holds at least a major award in Early childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

#### Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) There was a designated person in charge.
  - (b) The named person in charge remained on the premises for the duration of the inspection.
  - (c) All the staff members were aware of the management structure, the lines of authority and their roles within the service.
- The files of seven staff members and one student were reviewed.
- (2)
- (a)(b) Two written and verified past employer references or references from a reputable source other than a past employer, were available in respect of seven adults employed and one student whose records were reviewed.

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for seven adults working in the service. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Not applicable, as no adult had resided outside the state for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.

(4) Six adults employed and working directly with children attending the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or higher on the National Framework of Qualifications.

### Non-Compliance Information

(4) There was no documentary evidence available that one adult held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or higher on the National Framework of Qualifications.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### **Corrective and Preventive Action**

(4) The qualification document is now on file.

#### **Supporting documentation submitted**

(4) Qualification document.

### Summary Comment

The written response and documentary evidence response submitted by the registered provider has been assessed by the Early Years Inspectorate. Regulatory compliance is met for Regulation 9(4).

## Part III – Management and Staff

### Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

*(1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that there is at all times an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.*

*(2) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), a registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 of Schedule 6 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Part in respect of the age range of the children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.*

*(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-*

*(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times,*

### Compliance Information

- (1) There were twenty children attending the service and they were supervised directly by six adults.
- (2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to during the day.

### Non-Compliance Information

- (8)(a) There was no evidence available that two adults were on the premises between the hours of 7:00 – 7:30 am.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

- (8)(a) A proposed change in circumstance form has been submitted to the registration office to change the hours of opening from 8:00 am – 18:00 hours.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

- (8)(a) Copy of the proposed change in circumstance form and email confirmation of receipt.

### Summary Comment

The written response and documentary evidence submitted by the registered provider has been assessed by the Early Years Inspectorate. Regulatory compliance is met for Regulation 11(8)(a).

## Part IV – Information and Records

### Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis.

### Non-Compliance Information

- (1)(i) There was no staff roster available. Staff sign in sheets were used.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

- (1)(i) A staff roster is now available.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

- (1)(i) Copy of the staff roster.

### Summary Comment

The written response and documentary evidence submitted by the registered provider has been assessed by the Early Years Inspectorate. Regulatory compliance is met for Regulation 16(1)(i).

### Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

#### Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

(1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-

- (a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and
- (b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

#### Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) The pre-school rooms inspected had suitable and age-appropriate play and learning materials/equipment for the children attending the rooms. A sufficient number of tables, chairs and highchairs in the Toddler room were available, and low-level shelving units displaying the materials and equipment were easily accessible to the children. Two outdoor areas at the front and rear of the premises provided space for the children to run freely and play games. The front area had a climbing frame, swings, sand box, scooters and trikes for the children to use.
  - (b) A suitable rest area with child sized couch and armchairs provided a place for children to sit and relax during the day in the Preschool room. There was soft floor mats and soft cushions in the Toddler room for the comfort of younger children.
- A sleep room with 4 cots was available for children aged up to 2 years. This was adequate to provide needs led sleep. Two low level beds were available for all children aged over 2 years requiring sleep.

#### Non-Compliance Information

- (1)(a) The minimum 50 cm distance between the cots in the sleep room was not observed as three of the cots on the left-hand side of the room were arranged in a position where the cots were all in direct contact.

#### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

##### Corrective and Preventive Action

The cots have been rearranged to meet the 50 cm distance requirement in the sleep room.

##### Supporting documentation submitted

Three photographs of the cots in the sleep room

#### Summary Comment

The written response and photographic evidence submitted by the registered provider has been assessed by the Early Years Inspectorate. Regulatory compliance is met for Regulation 20 (1)(a).

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

*A registered provider shall ensure that all reasonable measures are taken to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of a pre-school child attending the service and that the environment of the service is safe.*

#### Compliance Information

##### General Safety:

The entrance door to the service was secured and managed by staff members to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised. The person in charge documented the inspector's visit to the service in the visitor's book on arrival. The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the indoor environment, toys and equipment and safe storage of cleaning agents.

##### Infection Control:

Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid hand soap and paper towels were readily available for hygienic hand washing and drying. The staff members were familiar with the importance of handwashing practice as a means to control the spread of infection in the service. They supervised children's handwashing and handwashing routines were well established. Foot pedal operated bins were provided for the disposal of used tissues. The soiled nappies were removed to the outdoor bin following nappy changes being completed. Written cleaning schedules were maintained for the room environments which were observed to be maintained in a clean and hygienic condition. Children's soothers were stored in single containers when not used.

##### Administration of Medication:

Medication was not given at the time of the inspection, written parental consent was available should medication be required to be administered to a child. The staff members were familiar with required safe practice when administering medication in the service. Medicine was safely stored.

##### Safe Sleep:

The staff members were familiar with current safe sleep guidance and the required care of sleeping children. It was observed that 10-minute sleep check observations were completed on all sleeping children and the staff documented the colour, position and breathing of sleeping children in their care.

##### Fire Safety:

Monthly fire drills had been carried out and staff members were familiar with fire safety evacuation procedures from the service. The fire exits were not obstructed.

### Outing:

The service conducts outings. An outings policy is in place in the service.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### General Safety:

1. There was no documentary evidence available that indoor and outdoor risk assessments were completed daily.
2. The entrance gate in outdoor area was not adequately secured to prevent unauthorised entry to the outdoor area. A sliding bolt and a foothold were observed on the outer side of the perimeter fence in the outdoor area to the front of the service.
3. There were no fire safe restrictive opening devices on the windows in the Toddler room and sleep room.

#### Infection Control:

4. The nappy change practices require to be reviewed as it was observed that the disposable apron and gloves used were not removed and disposed of after the used nappy was removed and bagged. This is not adequate for infection control purposes as it creates a potential risk of cross contamination.
5. There was a lack of clarity about the system in place for the management of mouthing toys in the Toddler room. There was no evidence that a container of sterilising solution, freshly made up daily was available in the service on the day of the inspection. It is acknowledged that there was a bottle of sterilising solution in the service. This area of practice needs to be reviewed, and a system put in place to manage the immediate sterilisation of shared toys, soothers and equipment in the Toddler room for infection control purposes.

#### Safe Sleep:

6. At 12:40 hours, four children were observed lying on the soft mats in the rest area in the Toddler room. They were provided with a small cushion for a pillow and a blanket. The area was closed off by a divider partition. Two cots and two low level beds were available but not used. This is not appropriate sleep/ rest provision or care practice for children requiring rest / sleep.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### General Safety:

1. Indoor and outdoor risk assessments are completed daily.
2. A detailed risk assessment of the fence and gate of the front playground has been completed as well as the actions and procedures put in place to manage this risk as per the attached risk assessment.

3. Fire safe restrictive opening devices added to windows in toddler room and sleep room.

**Infection Control:**

4. Inservice training was delivered to all staff on nappy changing procedure as per attached record. Ongoing monthly reviews of compliance with nappy changing procedure with all staff will be completed as per the attached record. The nappy changing procedure is printed and available next to the nappy changing area for staff members to review.
5. Inservice training on the sterilisation of mouthing toys completed as per the attached record. The procedure for the sterilisation of mouthing toys on display in the baby/toddler room for staff to reference. The process of sterilisation of mouthing toys has been added to our daily cleaning records to ensure on going compliance.

**Safe Sleep:**

6. All rest and sleep for children will be accommodated in the sleep room.

**Supporting documentation submitted**

**General Safety:**

1. Completed indoor and outdoor environmental risk assessments.
2. Risk assessment document / four photographs.
3. Two photographs.

**Infection Control:**

4. Procedure for sterilisation of toys and equipment / toy cleaning programme.
5. Document outlining training completed for nappy changing/ nappy change procedure / monthly peer review of the nappy changing procedure form.

**Safe Sleep:**

6. Not required.

**Summary Comment**

The written response, documentary and photographic evidence submitted by the registered provider has been assessed by the Early Years Inspectorate. Regulatory compliance is met for Regulation 23.

### Part VI – Safety

#### Regulation 25 - First aid

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that a person trained in first aid for children is, at all times, immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service.
- (2) A registered provider shall ensure that a suitably equipped first aid box for children-
- (a) is safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises, and
  - (b) is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.

#### Compliance Information

- (2)
- (a) The first aid equipment was safely stored, in a conspicuous position in the care rooms inspected.
  - (b) Suitably equipped first aid boxes for children were available at all times to the adults caring for the children attending the service.

#### Non-Compliance Information

- (1) There were no staff members present from 7:00 – 7:30 am who were trained in in first aid response (FAR) and were immediately available to the children attending the service.

#### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

##### Corrective and Preventive Action

- (1) A change of circumstances form has been submitted to amend opening hours.

##### Supporting documentation submitted

- (1) Copy of the proposed change in circumstance form and email confirmation of receipt.

#### Summary Comment

The written response and documentary evidence submitted by the registered provider has been assessed by the Early Years Inspectorate. Regulatory compliance is met for Regulation 25(1).

### Part VI – Safety

#### Regulation 26 - Fire safety measures

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of-*
- (a) any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and*
  - (b) the number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.*
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.*

#### Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) A written record was available of fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill was 28 April 2024.
  - (b) A record was kept of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises. Firefighting equipment was serviced on 10 September 2024, and the smoke alarm was last serviced on 30 April 2025.
  - (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the entrance hallway of the service.

### Part VI – Safety

#### Regulation 28 – Insurance

*A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.*

#### Compliance Information

There was evidence of current insurance cover valid until 27 March 2026. The insurance provided cover for 23 children.

## Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

### Regulation 29 - Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-  
(d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*

#### Compliance Information

(d) The service was maintained in a clean condition. There is a system in place for any maintenance required.

#### Non-Compliance Information

- (d)
- The wooden perimeter fence in the rear outdoor area was stained and had evidence of peeling paint in several areas.

#### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

##### **Corrective and Preventive Action**

- Fence in rear play area will be painted over the summer months when weather permits.

##### **Supporting documentation submitted**

Nil received.

#### Summary Comment

The written response submitted by the registered provider has been assessed by the Early Years Inspectorate. Regulatory compliance is not met for Regulation 29(d) as the non-compliance has not been corrected. This will be assessed at the next inspection.